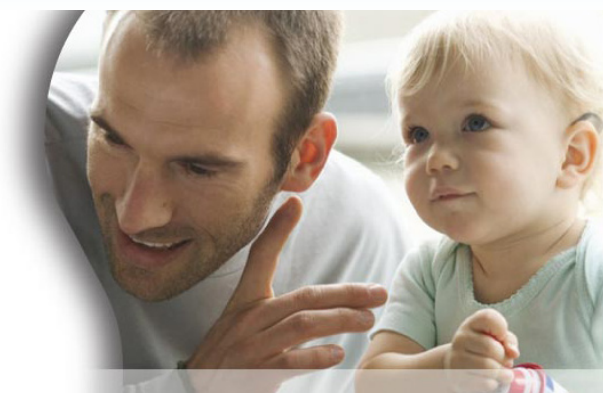


Why Should You Support the Work of the ACI Alliance?



Here are a few excellent reasons:

- **The newly formed ACI Alliance** is committed to eliminating barriers to cochlear implantation by sponsoring research, driving heightened awareness and advocating for improved access to cochlear implants for people of all ages.
- **At present, only half of US children who could benefit from cochlear implants have one.** In developed countries in Europe, such as the UK, Germany and Belgium, the proportion is 90% or more.
- **Utilization by adults who could benefit is even lower;** only 5% of adults who could benefit, have a cochlear implant.
- **We believe that the best way to change this situation** is for cochlear implant surgeons, audiologists, therapists, educators and other professionals in the field to join together with parents, adults and advocates to press for needed improvements.
- **As a cochlear implant recipient or parent of a child with a CI,** you know what an extraordinary improvement the CI can make in one's life opportunities and quality of life.
- **By working together,** we can address the challenges people now have in gaining access to cochlear implants.
- **Cochlear Americas was instrumental** in bringing together all three cochlear implant companies to provide the financial support that made ACI Alliance's start-up possible.
- **The ACI Alliance** is already working on a number of important projects. These include:
 - Advocating for coverage of the full continuum of cochlear implant care under the new Health Care Exchanges being established under the Affordable Care Act. We are assisting clinicians, other professionals, and consumer/parent advocates to get involved in their state's process.
 - Conducting research to evaluate current cochlear implant candidacy for adults. At present, candidacy criteria for people 65 and older covered by Medicare are more stringent than the FDA guidelines. Our study is exploring outcomes in older adults who meet FDA criteria (but do not meet current Medicare criteria) to evaluate the benefits of CIs in this group.
 - Collaborating with the existing organizations of ENTs, audiologists, speech language pathologists and educators to provide more focused attention to cochlear implant awareness among their professional communities.
- **Due to Cochlear Americas' generosity,** adult attendees of Celebration are being provided with a complimentary first year membership in the ACI Alliance. We welcome your participation!



AMERICAN COCHLEAR IMPLANT ALLIANCE

Research. Advocacy. Awareness.

For more information and to support the work of ACI Alliance, please visit our website at www.acialliance.org